



Afternoon Alert - Thursday, July 19, 2018

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HEADLINES

Noon news

NHK, NTV, and TBS gave extensive coverage to the intense heatwave across Japan, calling for caution against heatstroke. Fuji TV led with a report on an investment scam involving horse racing. TV Asahi gave top play to a report that a 38-year-old man was arrested in Kyoto after stabbing a woman with a knife this morning.

INTERNATIONAL

Secretary Pompeo says North Korea to return remains of U.S. soldiers soon

NHK reported at noon that Secretary of State Pompeo said during a cabinet meeting on Wednesday that North Korea will soon return some of the remains of U.S. soldiers who died in the Korean War. The network showed the Secretary saying: "We are making progress along the border to get the remains - a very important issue for the families. We think in the next couple of weeks, we'll have the first remains returned. That's the commitment." The network said several U.S. media outlets reported on Tuesday that according to U.S. government officials, the remains of about 50 U.S. soldiers may be returned around July 27, the 65th anniversary of the Korean War ceasefire.

Meanwhile, the network added that the Secretary indicated that further efforts are needed to

realize North Korea's denuclearization and that it will take time.

- [Japan set to halt imports of Iranian oil](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Foreign aid rushes into Japan after deadly rains](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)
- [Commentary: Trump's stance on Japan trade, denuclearization worries Tokyo](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Editorial: Gov't should make steady efforts to increase transparency of plutonium reduction](#) (Nikkei)
- [Health ministry to exhibit Obama's paper crane](#) (Tokyo Shimbun, Evening edition)
- [Japan's Tottori Pref., Vermont sign sister region agreement](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Editorial: Trump-Putin summit failed to address global problems](#) (The Mainichi)
- [Editorial: U.S.-Russia summit only results in turmoil in international order](#) (The Japan News)

ECONOMY

TPP11 confirms early effectuation of mega trade deal

Nikkei reported online that the chief negotiators of the CPTPP wrapped up their two-day conference in Hakone on Thursday morning, noting that the participants from the 11 member states affirmed they will make additional efforts to put the regional free trade pact into effect expeditiously by accelerating domestic procedures. Singapore, New Zealand, and others will reportedly follow Mexico and Japan in ratifying the trade liberalization initiative. They also agreed to convene a ministerial conference after the envisaged effectuation early next year to discuss terms and conditions for allowing new members.

The daily separately took up press remarks earlier today by Chief Cabinet Secretary Suga, who welcomed the UK's interest in joining the CPTPP by saying: "There is a shared wish among the existing members to expand the TPP's high-standard, balanced, and 21st-century trade rules around the world."

- [Japan hails Britain's interest in joining TPP free trade pact](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Ex-MOF official: Japan in a difficult position over trade issues](#) (Sankei)
- [Legislation to support development of areas near Northern Territories passed](#) (Mainichi)
- [Japan logs trade surplus in 2018 1st half for 5th 6-month term in row](#) (Kyodo News)

- [Yakuza ready to muscle in on casino business, gangster reveals](#) (The Asahi Shimbun)

POLITICS

- [Prime minister's schedule on July 18, 2018](#) (Nikkei)
- [DPFP to hold party leader election on Sept. 4](#) (Mainichi)
- [Veteran LDP lawmaker rebels in vote on Upper House election system reform bill](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Japan's MOF appoints female public relations head for 1st time](#) (Jiji Press)

SCIENCE

- [Japan to propose marine plastic waste solution at G20 in Osaka](#) (Japan Forward)

EDUCATION

- [Universities take initiatives to enhance diversity](#) (Yomiuri)
- [Todai to set basic course on use of private English tests for admission based on in-house recommendations](#) (Tokyo Shimbun)
- [Flexibility coming to Japan's program for foreign teachers](#) (Nikkei Asian Review)

SOCIETY

Mental disorders behind shoplifting and groping

NHK's "Close-up Gendai+" reported on the finding that those who repeatedly shoplift or grope suffer from psychiatric disorders. The program said some people who repeatedly steal things they don't need are diagnosed as having kleptomania, and those who cannot resist the urge to commit sexual crimes may have compulsive sexual behavior disorder (CSBD), both of which require medical treatment. Some prisons have started programs to treat inmates with kleptomania or CSBD symptoms and many medical institutions have also begun treatment programs.

- [Court orders child transfer based on Hague convention, but mother's and child's whereabouts are unknown](#) (Others, NHK News Web)
- [Number of foreign visitors to Japan up 15.6% in 1st half of 2018](#) (Kyodo News)
- [Crime in Japan at lowest postwar level in 1st half of 2018](#) (Kyodo News)

SECURITY

DM Onodera to urge U.S. military to prevent recurrence of incident involving X-band radar

NHK reported online that Defense Minister Onodera met with Kyoto Governor Nishiwaki today concerning an incident in May in which a helicopter carrying an injured person had to divert to another landing spot because the U.S. military's Kyogamisaki Communications Site did not stop transmission of radio waves by the X-band radar, which interferes with flight movements, even after the Japanese side requested the suspension. According to the network, the helicopter's arrival at a hospital was delayed by 17 minutes because of the diversion. The network said the defense chief told the governor that the GOJ will urge the U.S. military to take thorough preventive steps.

- [Japan to deploy patrol ships on remote island south of Tokyo](#) (Kyodo News)
- [ASDF scrambles fighters against Chinese aircraft 173 times in April-June period](#) (Sankei)
- [Okinawa to start procedures for revoking Henoko landfill permit "shortly"](#) (Yomiuri)

OKINAWA LOCAL PRESS

Okinawa chief to rescind landfill permit

Ryukyu Shimpō led with a story about Okinawa Governor Onaga's alleged intention to withdraw the landfill permit for Futenma relocation. According to several sources connected to the prefectural government, the governor may make an announcement as early as July 23 on commencing an administrative procedure for canceling the permit issued by his predecessor. As the Okinawa Defense Bureau has already notified the prefectural government of its plan to pour sand and dirt into waters off Camp Schwab for the FRF construction on August 17 at the earliest, the daily conjectured that the Okinawa leader is set to prevent the work from proceeding by withdrawing the permit beforehand. The daily predicted in a separate piece that another round of legal battles will eventually start since the central government is bound to take the matter to court again by asking for a stay of the rescindment.

- [Governor Onaga willing to seek reelection](#) (Okinawa Times)
- [Okinawa assembly lodges protest over U.S. military stray bullet](#) (Ryukyu Shimpō)

